

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A flash control device for controlling a slave flash device that emits a flash upon receipt of an operational instruction via optical communication, comprising:

5 a signal emitting part for emitting an optical signal used for the optical communication;

a power determining part for determining a state of power supply to be used for light emission of said signal emitting part; and

a communication intensity deciding part for deciding, according to a determination
10 result from said power determining part, intensity of the optical signal to be emitted by said signal emitting part.

2. The flash control device according to Claim 1, wherein

said signal emitting part is able to emit a flash serving as illumination at the time of photographing.

15 3. The flash control device according to Claim 2, wherein

said communication intensity deciding part increases signal intensity of said optical signal emitting part when illumination is not set to be provided at the time of photographing.

4. The flash control device according to Claim 1, wherein

when the flash control device is provided with an external power supply device in
20 exterior thereof for additional power supply to be used for the light emission of said signal emitting part, said communication intensity deciding part increases the intensity of the optical signal to be emitted by said optical signal emitting part.

5. The flash control device according to Claim 4, wherein

said signal emitting part is able to emit a flash serving as illumination at the time of
25 photographing.

6. The flash control device according to Claim 5, wherein

said communication intensity deciding part increases signal intensity of said optical signal emitting part when illumination is not set to be provided at the time of photographing.

7. A flash control device for controlling a slave flash device that emits a flash upon receipt of an operational instruction via optical communication, comprising:

a signal emitting part for emitting an optical signal used for the optical communication;

a slave flash determining part for determining whether or not said slave flash device has emitted preliminary slave light, in accordance with an optical signal emitted by said signal emitting part; and

a communication intensity deciding part for increasing intensity of the optical signal to be emitted by said optical signal emitting part when said slave flash determining part determines that said preliminary slave light has not been emitted.

8. The flash control device according to Claim 7, wherein

said signal emitting part is able to emit a flash serving as illumination at the time of photographing.

9. The flash control device according to Claim 8, wherein

said communication intensity deciding part increases signal intensity of said optical signal emitting part when illumination is not set to be provided at the time of photographing.

10. A flash control device for controlling a slave flash device that emits a flash upon receipt of an operational instruction via optical communication, comprising:

a signal emitting part for emitting an optical signal used for the optical communication;

a photometry part for measuring brightness of a subject field; and

a communication intensity deciding part for deciding, according to a measurement

result from said photometry part, intensity of the optical signal to be emitted by said signal emitting part.

11. A flash control system comprising: a photographing device; a slave flash device emitting a flash upon receipt of an operational instruction via optical communication; and a
5 signal emitting part for emitting an optical signal used for the optical communication, the flash control system further comprising:

said signal emitting part attached to said photographing device, and changeably functioning as a light/signal emission device capable of emitting a flash serving as illumination at the time of photographing, and a dedicated signal emission device capable of
10 emitting the optical signal to only give an operational instruction to said slave flash device, wherein

said photographing device sets intensity of the optical signal to be emitted by said dedicated signal emission device to be greater than the intensity of the optical signal to be emitted by said light/signal emission device.

12. A flash control system comprising a photographing device; a slave flash device emitting a flash upon receipt of an operational instruction via optical communication; and a
15 signal emission device attached to said photographing device and having a signal emitting part for emitting an optical signal used for the optical communication, the flash control system further comprising:

20 a photometry part provided in said photographing device and/or in said signal emission device, for measuring brightness of a subject field; and

a communication intensity deciding part for deciding, according to a measurement result from said photometry part, intensity of the optical signal to be emitted by said signal emitting part.

13. A flash control device for controlling a slave flash device that emits a flash upon

receipt of an operational instruction via optical communication, comprising:

a signal emitting part capable of emitting an optical signal used for the optical communication and of emitting a flash serving as illumination at the time of photographing; and

5 a communication intensity deciding part for deciding intensity of the optical signal to be emitted by said signal emitting part, wherein

when said signal emitting part does not illuminate at the time of photographing, said communication intensity deciding part sets signal intensity of said optical signal emitting part to be greater than when said signal emitting part illuminates at the time of photographing.

10 14. A flash control device for controlling a slave flash device that emits a flash upon receipt of an operational instruction via optical communication, comprising:

a signal emitting part capable of emitting an optical signal used for the optical communication and of emitting a flash serving as illumination at the time of photographing; and

15 a communication intensity deciding part for deciding intensity of the optical signal to be emitted by said signal emitting part, wherein

when the slave flash device is set to be controlled, said communication intensity deciding part inhibits said signal emitting part from illuminating at the time of photographing.

20 15. The flash control device according to Claim 14, wherein

said signal emitting part is a flash device built in the photographing device.

16. The flash control device according to Claim 14, wherein

said communication intensity deciding part does not inhibit said signal emitting part from illuminating at the time of photographing when the photographing device is provided
25 with an external flash device as the signal emitting part which has a light emission capacity

greater than a predetermined value, even when the slave flash device is set to be controlled.